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RCE/2828
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/588,696
Filing Date	June 7, 2000
First Named Inventor	Yujiro SUZUKI
Group Art Unit	2828
Examiner Name	Q. Leung
Attorney Docket No.	325772017700

This is a Request for continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on September 4, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
 - iii. Other:
- b. **Enclosed**
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other:

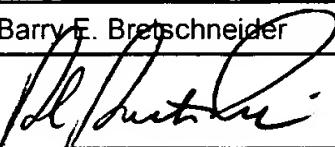
2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.1039c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required)
- b. Other:

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

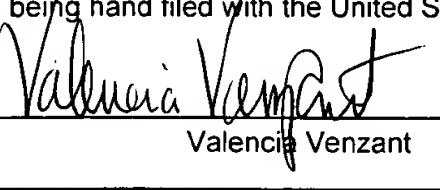
- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 (referencing Docket No. 163852017700).
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other:
- b. Check in the amount of \$ enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Barry E. Bretschneider	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	28,055
Signature		Date	March 9, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Arlington, Virginia, on March 9, 2004.

03/10/2004 CNGUYEN 00000080 031952 09588696  Valencia Venzant

01 FC:1801 770.00 DA
02 FC:1253 950.00 DA

Burden Hours Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.